



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2015 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2015 Code Answers in green (Apr- Jun)
3rd QTR 2015 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2015 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

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502.8 - Question: Can a gas water heater be installed in the attic, where the attic access is a pull down stair located in a closet of a bedroom?

Answer: Yes, nothing prohibits the attic access from being in the closet. Section 502.8 states the water heater cannot be installed in the closet off the bedroom, unless the door is weather stripped and is equiped with a self closer. In this case the water heater is installed in the attic, not the closet.

502.8 Prohibited installations. Water heaters, (using solid, liquid or gas fuel) with the exception of those having direct vent systems, shall not be installed in bathrooms and bedrooms or in a closet with access only through a bedroom or bathroom. However, water heaters of the automatic storage type may be installed as replacement in a bathroom, when approved by the plumbing official, provided they are vented and supplied with adequate combustion air.

Exception: When a closet, having a weather-stripped solid door with an approved closing device, has been designed exclusively for the water heater and where all air for combustion and ventilation is supplied from outdoors.

504.6 - Question: Can a water heater T&P discharge to a wood floor over a crawlspace?



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Answer: No, Per the NCDOL interpretation dated August 28, 2015. if the floor over the crawl space has wood joists, flooring or subflooring, the water heater relief valve discharge should discharge through a visible air gap in the space the water heater is in and according to all of the requirements of section 504.6
See attached interpretation from NCDOL

608.3 - Question: Does a humidifier that is connected to the water supply, require backflow protection?

Answer: Yes, Section 608.3 NCPC requires all devices, appurtenances, appliances and apparatus serving a special function to be provided with backflow protection.
608.3 Devices, appurtenances, appliances and apparatus. All devices, appurtenances, appliances and apparatus intended to serve some special function, such as sterilization, distillation, processing, cooling, or storage of ice or foods, and that connect to the water supply system, shall be provided with protection against backflow and contamination of the water supply system. Water pumps, filters, softeners, tanks and all other appliances and devices that handle or treat potable water shall be protected against contamination.

Policy - Question: What piping is allowed to be installed during the Shell?

Answer: Plumbing during the SHELL PHASE is limited to a building sewer, a building water service, a building drain and associated piping below the concrete slab, a water distribution MAIN (below or above grade) with associated service valves, and roof drains/scuppers. NO piping other than that listed previously, equipment or fixtures above the slab are allowed. Also, the Plumbing Plan reviewer or the Code Administrator may allow exceptions on a case by case basis. This interpretation is from 2008 and is still used today.
See attached interpretation

Policy - Question: Can a plumbing make their own neutralizer cartridge for condensing water heaters/furnaces? It is just lime inside a pipe



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Answer: No, the neutralizer cartridges must be listed.

Policy - Question: When does a condensing water heater or furnace need a neutralizer? Who inspects the condensate drain?

Answer: If manufacturer states that their condensate will be below PH 6, then they must have a neutralizer. At this point they can either go to sanitary, outdoors or other approved means of disposal, as it is now PH neutral(7). It will all depend on what the manufacturer's installation instructions of the water heater/furnace says.

The plumbing inspector will check all plumbing connections. The mechanical inspector will check the gas line, venting (if applicable) and the condensate (if applicable)

Policy - Question: Does the Code require a drain in a dumpster pad?

Answer: No, but if the owner/designer wishes to provide a drain, then the 2" drain (min.) shall discharge to the sanitary system via a grease interceptor, and the area around the pad shall be sloped away (or curbed) from the pad so the drain does not receive water other than that which falls directly in the pad.

Policy - Question: When do I need a permit to repair a water service line?

Answer: The department has a local interpretation for "damage repair" of a water service line. No permit is required if the repair is limited to 5 feet or less of line. Please note this only applies to damage repair and not line moves, maintenance, etc.

Policy - Question: How much roughing is required on a residential bathroom installed in a basement "for future"?



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Answer: Future rough piping shall include all piping below the slab, a stub for the vent and a stub for the building drain and water distribution if not accessible later. Should the future bath require a sewage lift to reach the drainage system and the desire is to locate this sewage lift within the structure, then the tank and pump shall be included a part of the future rough piping

Other - Question: I am inspecting a warehouse and they are installing a single urinal in an existing restroom. They feel the code doesn't require that urinal to be accessible, are they right?

Answer: Yes, Section 1109.2 #4; does not require the urinal to be accessible if it is the only urnial provided.

1109.2 Toilet and bathing facilities. Each toilet room and bathing room shall be accessible. Where a floor level is not required to be connected by an accessible route, the only toilet rooms or bathing rooms provided within the facility shall not be located on the inaccessible floor. At least one of each type of fixture, element, control or dispenser in each accessible toilet room and bathing room shall be accessible.

Exceptions:

1. In toilet rooms or bathing rooms accessed only through a private office, not for common or public use and intended for use by a single occupant, any of the following alternatives are allowed:

1.1. Doors are permitted to swing into the clear floor space, provided the door swing can be reversed to meet the requirements in ICC A117.1;

1.2. The height requirements for the water closet in ICC A117.1 are not applicable;

1.3. Grab bars are not required to be installed in a toilet room, provided that reinforcement has been installed in the walls and located so as to permit the installation of such grab bars; and



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- 1.4. The requirement for height, knee and toe clearance shall not apply to a lavatory.
2. This section is not applicable to toilet and bathing rooms that serve dwelling units or sleeping units that are not required to be accessible by Section 1107.
3. Where multiple single-user toilet rooms or bathing rooms are clustered at a single location, at least 50 percent but not less than one room for each use at each cluster shall be accessible.
4. Where no more than one urinal is provided in a toilet room or bathing room, the urinal is not required to be accessible.
5. Toilet rooms that are part of critical care or intensive care patient sleeping rooms are not required to be accessible.

Other - Question: There is a manufacturer that makes a FHA plate that is 16 inches, instead of 18; are we allowed to use these?

Answer: Yes, we can find nothing in the code that prohibits the use of a 16 inch FHA plate. Section R602.6.1 only requires the following:

16ga

1.5 inches wide

Not less than eight 10d nails on each side

Must extend a minimum of 6 inches past the opening

Other - Question: Does the set screw on a vacuum breaker have to be broken off?

Answer: Yes, we researched several manufacturers and all of the required the set screw to be broken off as part of the installation instructions.

Other - Question: Can a hose bibb with a vacuum breaker be used in lieu of RPZ for a pool fill?



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Answer: No, most pool fills are a direct connection which will not work with the hose bibb/vacuum breaker. Per Table 608.1 NCPC, a hose connection vacuum breaker is limited to a maximum size of 1 inch.